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October 1, 2004
Case No.: AUS920010138-US1 (9000/25)
Serial No.: 09/843,068
Filed: April 26, 2001
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REMARKS/DISCUSSION OF ISSUES

Specification. The Applicant has amended the Abstract herein to correct a formatting error. No new matter was introduced by the amendment of the Abstract herein.

Claims 12, 17 and 18. Claims 12, 17 and 18 have been amended herein to correct typographical errors and not to overcome any cited references.

Claims 1-18. In the Non-Final Office Action, Examiner Campbell rejected pending claims 1-18 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by *Microsoft Excel 1999*. The Applicant responds to this rejection as subsequently recited herein, and respectfully requests reconsideration and further examination of the present application under 37 CFR § 1.112.

As to the §102(b) rejection of pending claims 1-18, the Applicant has thoroughly considered Examiner Campbell's remarks concerning the patentability of pending claims 1-18 over *Microsoft Excel 1999*. The Applicant has also thoroughly read *Microsoft Excel 1999*. To warrant this §102(b) rejection of claims 1-18, *Microsoft Excel 1999* must show each and every limitation of claims 1-18 in as complete detail as is contained in claims 1-18. See, MPEP §2131. The Applicant respectfully traverses this §102(b) rejection of claims 1-18, because *Microsoft Excel 1999* fails to show each and every limitation of claims 1-18 in as complete detail as is contained in claims 1-18.

Specifically, during examination, Examiner Campbell must interpret claims 1-18 as broadly as their terms reasonably allow. This means that the terms of claims 1-18 must be given ordinary and customary meaning attributed to them by those having ordinary skill in the art of the present application unless the Applicant has clearly set forth a definition of one or more terms of claims 1-18 that is different than their ordinary and customary meaning in the art. See, MPEP §2111.01.

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The Applicant respectfully asserts that the well known ordinary and customary meaning of the term "metadata" is data for describing other data. The Applicant reinforced this definition by defining the term "metadata objects" as being data for describing data objects. *See, U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/843,068* at page 1, lines 2 and 3. The Applicant further respectfully asserts that the data illustrated in FIG. 1 of *Microsoft Excel 1999* is not metadata as known in the art, but no more than data that can be described by metadata. Thus, *Microsoft Excel 1999* can not be interpreted by Examiner Campbell as teaching "metadata objects", "metadata information" and "metadata directives" as recited in claims 1-18.

Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-18 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by *Microsoft Excel 1999* is therefore respectfully requested

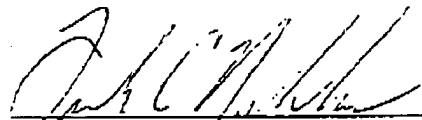
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CONCLUSION

The Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-18 as listed herein fully satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §§102, 103 and 112. In view of the foregoing, favorable consideration and early passage to issue of the present application is respectfully requested

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CARDINAL LAW GROUP
Suite 2000
1603 Orrington Avenue
Evanston, Illinois 60201
Phone: (847) 905-7111
Fax: (847) 905-7113



Frank C. Nicholas
Registration No. 33,983
Attorney for Applicants

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